

REMARKS

In the office action mailed on May 30, 2007, claims 1, 9 and 11 – 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 541,729 in view of U.S. Patent No. 521,806. Claims 16 – 20 that were added in the Supplemental Amendment filed on April 11, 2007 were not addressed in the office action.

Each of independent claims 1 and 9 is amended herein to further require that the flanges also include:

jamming surfaces that slope inwardly into the receiving channel and extend from the entry end of the receiving channel toward stop surfaces to accommodate the lateral insertion and longitudinal pinching; and
non-sloping surfaces that extend from said stop surfaces toward the exit end of the receiving channel to releasably wedge said end tab within the receiving channel

Applicant respectfully submits that none the cited references in any combination discloses or renders obvious a buckle that includes such features in combination with the other elements of each of claims 1 and 9. Claim 11 is further amended to be consistent with claims 1 and 9, and claims 10, 12, 16 – 18 and 20 are canceled.

Each of claims 1, 9, 11, 13 – 15, and 19 is considered to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested. Respectfully submitted,



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